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## A Study of the Legal Aid Family Law Center and its Clients, by Cynthia Ann Thomas [and] Susan Marie Vail

Cynthia Ann Thomas  
*Portland State University*

Susan Marie Vail  
*Portland State University*

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PRACTICUM REPORT OF Cynthia Ann Thomas and Susan Marie Vail for  
the Master in Social Work presented May 26, 1972.

Title: A Study of the Legal Aid Family Law Center and its  
Clients.

APPROVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PRACTICUM REPORT COMMITTEE:

  
Diane Pancoast, MSW

  
Quentin D. Clarkson PhD

  
J.V. McGoodwin, Attorney

A STUDY OF THE LEGAL AID FAMILY LAW CENTER  
AND ITS CLIENTS

by  
CYNTHIA ANN THOMAS  
SUSAN MARIE VAIL

A practicum report submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER in SOCIAL WORK

Portland State University  
1972

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The family is the basic unit in our society. When there is a breakdown in this unit, specifically in the marital relationship, the effect upon the husband, wife, and children can be devastating in terms of poverty, abuse, and cost to society. The frequent inability of the poor to obtain counseling and legal assistance in resolving family relationships perpetuates the social and psychological results of a poor marriage.

### Legal Aid

The function of Legal Aid Services in Multnomah County has been to render legal assistance to persons unable to afford the services of a private attorney. In 1970, approximately 42% of the 7,797 people who applied for legal aid service in Multnomah County had domestic relations problems. Divorces have demanded a large percentage of the staff attorneys and secretarial time at Legal Aid; too, there was not sufficient time to adequately meet the needs of the clients. These two problems resulted in a six-month waiting period to see an attorney.

The real problem of people needing services of both legal and counseling nature led to the development and expansion into a new area of service, to enable the poor to obtain counseling and legal assistance in handling problems in family relationships.

Family Law Center

The Family Law Center opened August 2, 1971 with the objective to expand and improve continuing legal services to its family law clients in two directions: 1) to make the legal process more efficient and less consuming of the client's time and efforts; and 2) to offer an integrated service of counseling assistance and legal assistance to the clients of the Family Law Center.

This Center was the first attempt to utilize the services of a trained social worker at the time of intake. The procedure is to offer the services of the counselor at the time of intake by asking the client if he wishes to speak with a counselor to help him with his problems.



## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study is concerned with poor persons and their ability to receive both legal and counseling services for their family problems. Other concerns are with the questions of alternatives to divorce for the client, the effects of marital breakup on the children, and the possibility and utility for a social worker to have a role in the legal process.

### Objectives

For the above reasons we chose to study the clients who came to Legal Aid Family Law Center with the purpose of examining the following four main areas of concern:

- 1) who the client is; where he lives;
- 2) why or if the client wants a divorce;
- 3) why the client came to Legal Aid and his contact with other agencies; and
- 4) whether the client has considered counseling to help with his problems.

In the areas studied, it was found that Legal Aid did not have any information gathered in a regular, consistent manner. We, therefore, desired in this study, to furnish data of real value for future use in planning for the Family Law Center.

### III. RESEARCH DESIGN

The data reported and analyzed in this study was gathered by means of questionnaires. The advantages of questionnaires as a method of data collection far outweigh the disadvantages, for the purposes of this study.

The method used is impersonal; the questions were presented with exactly the same wording and same order to each respondent to ensure that all respondents were replying to the same question; also, there were standardized instructions for recording responses. These elements helped to ensure some uniformity from one respondent to another. Such uniformity does not, however, eliminate the possibility of some questions having diverse meanings for some and being incomprehensible for others.

By design, questionnaires rely heavily on the respondent's self report; information obtained is limited to written responses to prearranged questions. Although we feel compelled to at least raise the issue of credibility, we have, nevertheless, selected to accept the responses given at face value, relying only on information supplied by the client.

The questionnaire was anonymous with no apparent identifying information. A statement at the top of each page indicated that the client was under no obligation to respond to any or all of the questions asked. It warrants mentioning, however, that anonymity

and no obligation does not necessarily induce frank answers, freedom to divulge information that otherwise might place a person in an unfavorable light, or that respondents felt no pressure to cooperate.

In formulating the questions there were many presumptions made of what was or was not relevant. These presumptions were primarily derived from the following sources: 1) a 1970 study of Legal Aid done by a Reed College student; 2) Dr. Dean Clarkson, who reviewed our original questions and offered suggestions; 3) Attorney James McGoodwin who assisted in rewording of many questions; and 4) ourselves, with backgrounds and experience in working with low-income families at Welfare and in child development.

In our attempt to present questionnaires in a context that would motivate the client to cooperate, we placed importance on: 1) length, one page; 2) ease in completion (where feasible, check marks were requested); and 3) simplified wording to avoid misinterpretation.

Another concern was with asking questions to obtain information about what the client knows, feels, wants, and intends to do. The majority of our questions limited the responses to stated alternatives. This type of question helped to insure that the responses were given in a frame of reference relevant to the purpose of the study as well as responses which were usable in analysis. This limitation, however, allowed no opportunity for other responses except when the client chose to write an additional response.



Each questionnaire was consecutively numbered for the purpose of determining the total that were handed out, returned, and completed.

The Family Law Center secretary handed out the questionnaires to each client at the time of his initial intake interview. She also assisted those persons who requested assistance in either reading or completing the form. The sample itself is random in that we assume that the actual scheduling of intake appointments is done randomly (when the client calls to make an appointment).

#### Time Schedule

The period of our sample was from August 2, 1971 to October 31, 1971. This two-month sample period of a total population gives some assurance that the odds are great enough that the sample is sufficiently representative of the population to justify running the risk of taking it as representative of the total population.

#### IV. DISCUSSION OF DATA

A copy of the questionnaire is Exhibit A in the Appendix; all tables of compiled data from each question will also be found in the Appendix.

In the following analysis and discussion of the data gathered by each question on the questionnaire, all information given by both female and male respondents about their spouses (Questions 1-9) was disregarded for the purposes of this report due to limited responses about the spouse which would have inconclusive results.

##### Return Rate

(Table I in Appendix) A total of 293 questionnaires were handed out with 243 (83%) returned completed, 28 (9%) returned blank, and 22 (8%) not returned.

The high return rate can be accounted for in several ways: 1) skillful handling and administering by the Legal Aid secretary; 2) extremely cooperative clients; and 4) clients may have felt pressured to respond even though the instructions explained that they did not have to answer.

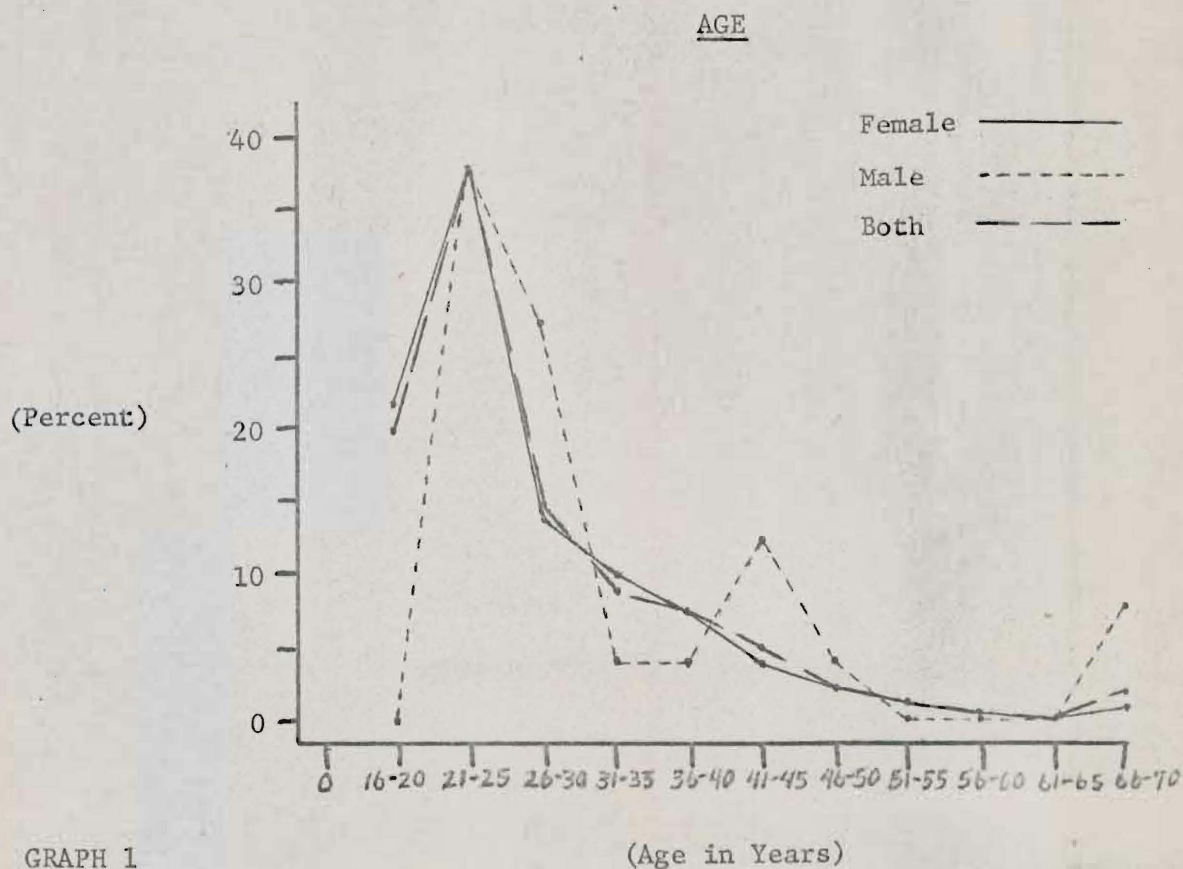
Also, some comments need to be made about those questionnaires that were not returned and those returned blank. Several assumptions about this are: 1) the obvious reason being that the client did not choose to supply the information; 2) they may not have had enough time to complete it; and 3) they may have been unable to read and/or write.

Sex (Question 1)

(Table II in Appendix) The ratio of females to males is 9 to 1. This raises the question of whether this rate also correlates with clients of higher income levels who see private attorneys for domestic relations problems. This would be valuable information which we cannot supply as our focus was only on this specific data.

Age (Question 2)

(Table III in Appendix) Graph 1 shows the highest percent of females (38%) were between the ages of 21-25. This percent (38%) was the same for males in the same age range.





The majority of females (60%) were younger than 26, and the total ages of females ranged from 16 to 68. The majority of males (65%) were between the ages of 21 and 30, and the age range for all males was 21 to 68. The combined totals of both sexes show the highest percent (38%) falling in the 21-25 age group, with (60%) under 26 years of age, and (75%) 30 years or younger.

Race (Question 3)

(Table IV in Appendix) Of the total number of respondents, (88%) were white, (8%) black, and (3%) other non-whites. These percentages closely correspond with the racial composition of the Portland area which, in 1970, was approximately (94%) white, (5%) black, and (1%) all other non-whites. This would indicate that these clients were proportionately representative of the larger population.

Employment (Question 4)

(Table V in Appendix) Three out of every four clients was unemployed, with no difference between the sexes.

Welfare (Question 5)

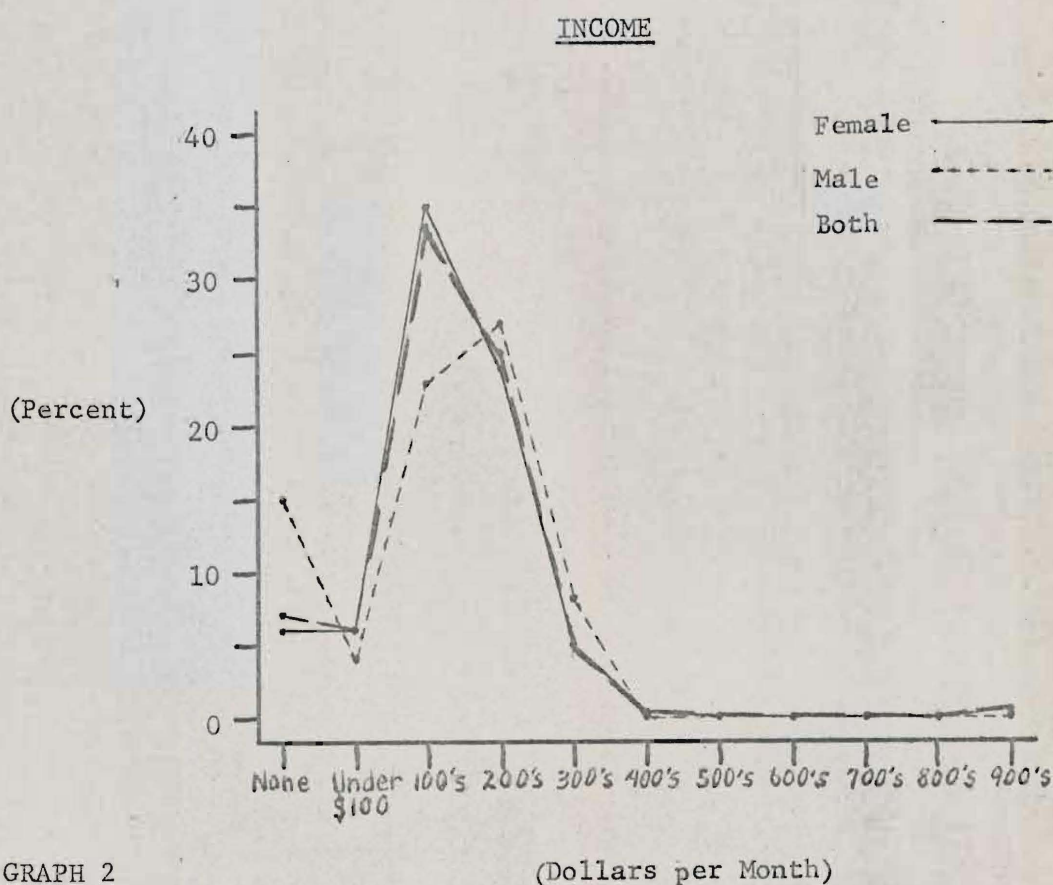
(Table VI in Appendix) Two out of every three females were receiving Welfare assistance; whereas, only one male out of the 23 who answered was on Welfare.

Income (Question 6)

(Table VII in Appendix) Graph 2 shows that over one-half of the females (59%) had an income between \$100 and \$300 per month.

One-half of the males (50%) were in this same income range. Males and females combined, (65%) had incomes less than \$300 per month. Six percent of the females and (15%) of the males had no income.

The incomes ranged from \$0 to \$380 for males, and from \$0 to \$400 for females, with one female having an income of \$900 per month.



GRAPH 2

Education (Question 7)

(Tables VII & IX in Appendix) The same percentage (65%) of females and (65%) of the males finished high school or G.E.D. high school equivalency.



There was a very high rate of no response, (86%) for females and (92%) for males, for the training section of this question. This, however, does not necessarily mean that the client did not have additional training other than academic; it does indicate that this was a poorly designed question. The instructions given were "check one" and this did not allow for an additional response after answering the questions about school.

#### Living Situation - Physical (Question 8)

(Table X in Appendix) Both males (65%) and females (76%) were renting either a house or an apartment; males and females combined, (75%) were renting a house or an apartment. Only (5%) of the females and (8%) of the males owned their own homes.

#### Living Situation - Social (Question 9)

(Table XI in Appendix) This was a poorly worded question. "With Children" was intended to mean that the client was living in the home of his children, but it was interpreted by some clients to mean that their children were living with them.

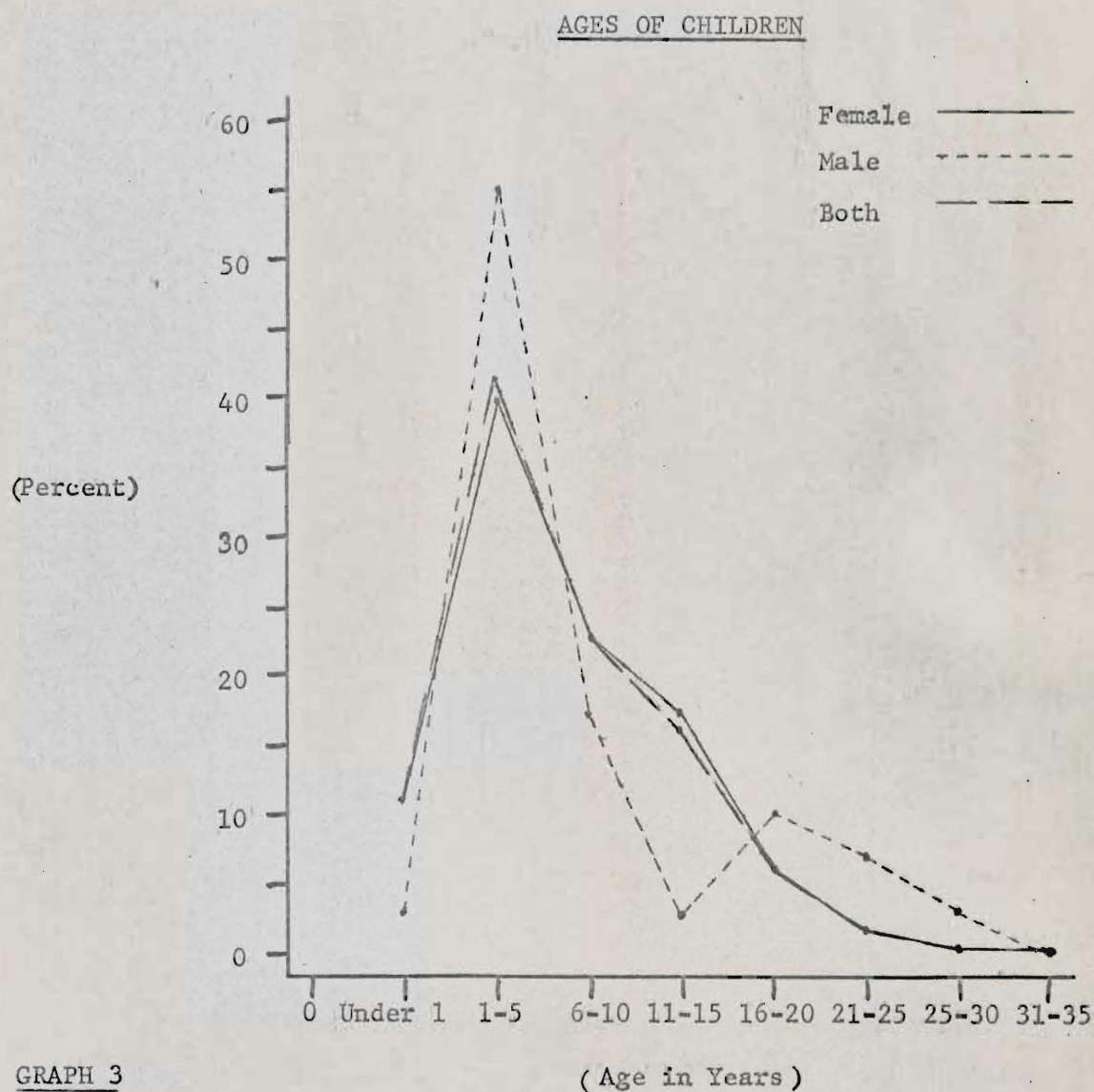
No conclusions can be drawn from these responses, except that only (28%) of the females contrasted with (42%) of the males were living with someone else; combining male and female responses, (30%) were living with someone else.

#### Part of Town (Question 10)

(Table XII in Appendix) Sixty-five percent of the females and (65%) of the males were living on the eastside of town with the majority living in Southeast Portland (females, 43% and males, 38%).

Ages of Children (Question 11)

(Table XIII in Appendix) Graph 3 shows that the highest percentage of the children of female clients (40%), and of male clients (55%) were between the ages of 1 and 5.



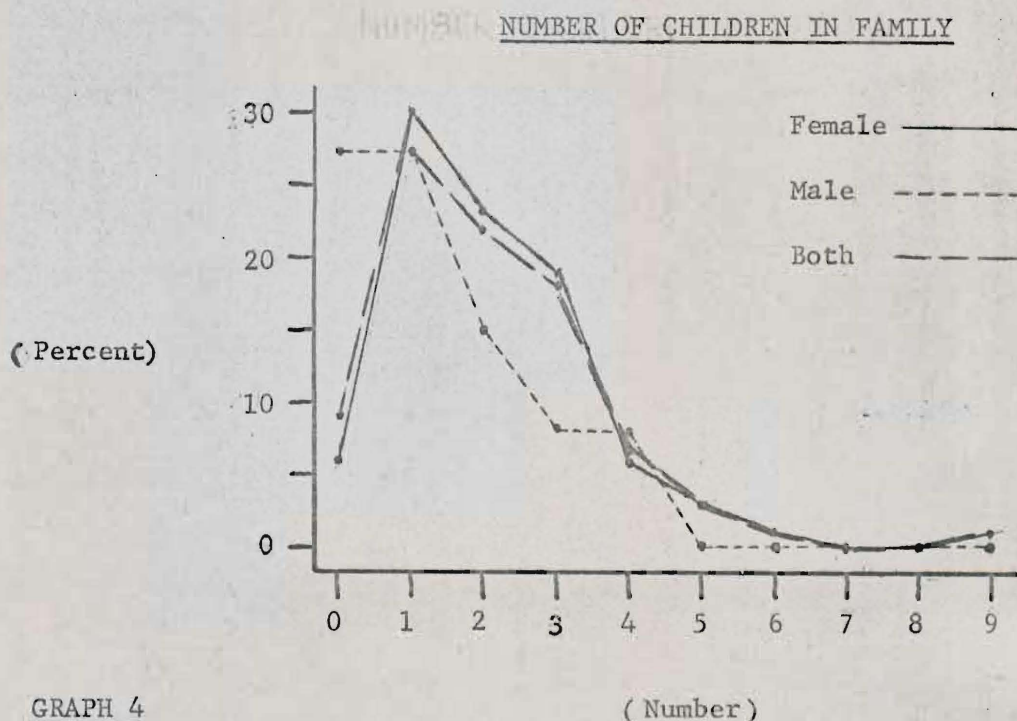
GRAPH 3

The majority of the children were between the ages of 1 and 10, and (75%) of the total number of children of both male and female clients were under 10 years of age. Only (11%) were under 1 and (24.6%) were over 10 with the oldest child of a female client being 34, and 26 years for the male clients.

#### Number of Children (Question 11)

(Table XIV in Appendix) This information was obtained from the responses to the question about the ages of the children.

Graph 4 shows that (53%) of the females and (42%) of the males had 1 to 2 children; also, (72%) of the females and (50%) of the males had 3 children or less.



GRAPH 4



This data indicates that low-income persons have no more children than the general population; however, this is also a very young clientele and this may account for the fewer number and younger ages of the children.

#### Living Situation of Children (Question 12)

(Table XV in Appendix) The majority of the females (77%) indicated that the children were living with them; (5%) indicated that the children were living with the husband; and, (8.4%) indicated that the children were in other living situations. There was a (38%) rate of no response to this question by the males; but, of those responding, (38%) said they had the children living with them, and (29%) said the children were with the wife.

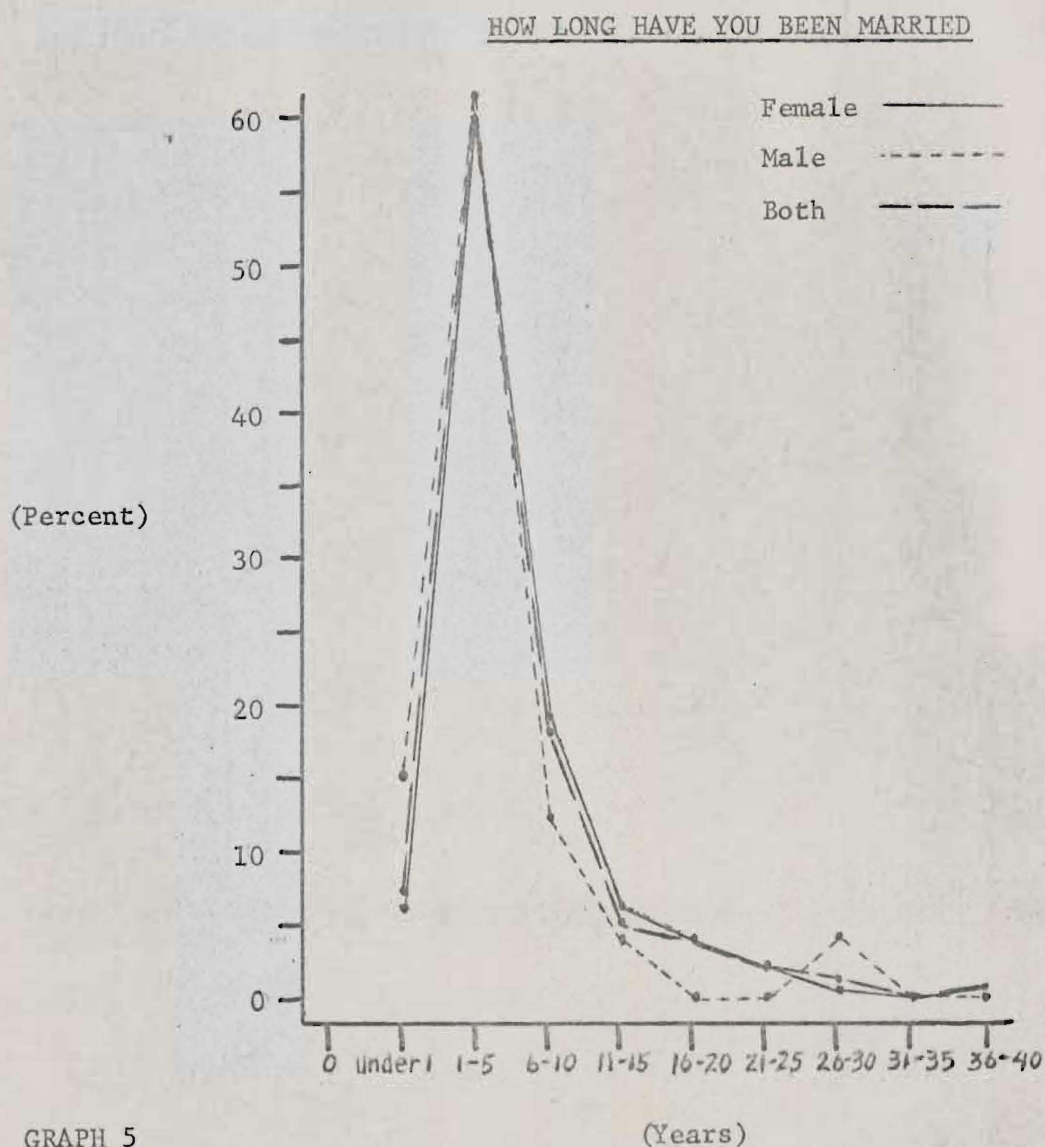
#### Children Suffering (Question 13)

(Tables XVI & XVII in Appendix) The percent of clients answering "No" to this question (females, 5.% and males, 58%) raises the question in our minds of whether the client was willing or unable to admit or see their children as suffering from the marriage. However, our expectations of a higher "Yes" response may strongly indicate our social work bias regarding the damaging effects which a breakup in marriage and family can have upon children.

Although it is difficult to say anything significant about the "Yes" responses to this question, with only 60 of the females and 6 males responding in this way, we did find that (37%) of the 66 responses indicated bad behavior as the manner in which the child suffered.

Length of Marriage (Question 14)

(Table XVIII in Appendix) As shown in Graph 5, the greatest number of females (60%) and males (62%) were married less than five years. The range was from less than one year for both male and female to 37 years (female) and 28 years (male). Eighty-five percent of the females and (89%) of the males were married less than 10 years. Only (12%) of the females and (8%) of the males were married more than 10 years.



GRAPH 5

Number of Marriages (Question 15)

(Table XIX in Appendix) The majority of the females (71%) and of males (62%) were married only one time; combining male and female responses, (70%) were married only one time.

Separation (Question 16)

(Table XX in Appendix) Only (5%) of the females and (4%) of the males were not separated at the time of intake. Ninety-four percent of the females and (92%) of the males were presently separated; combining male and female responses, (94%) of both were presently separated.

Separated - Length of Time (Question 16)

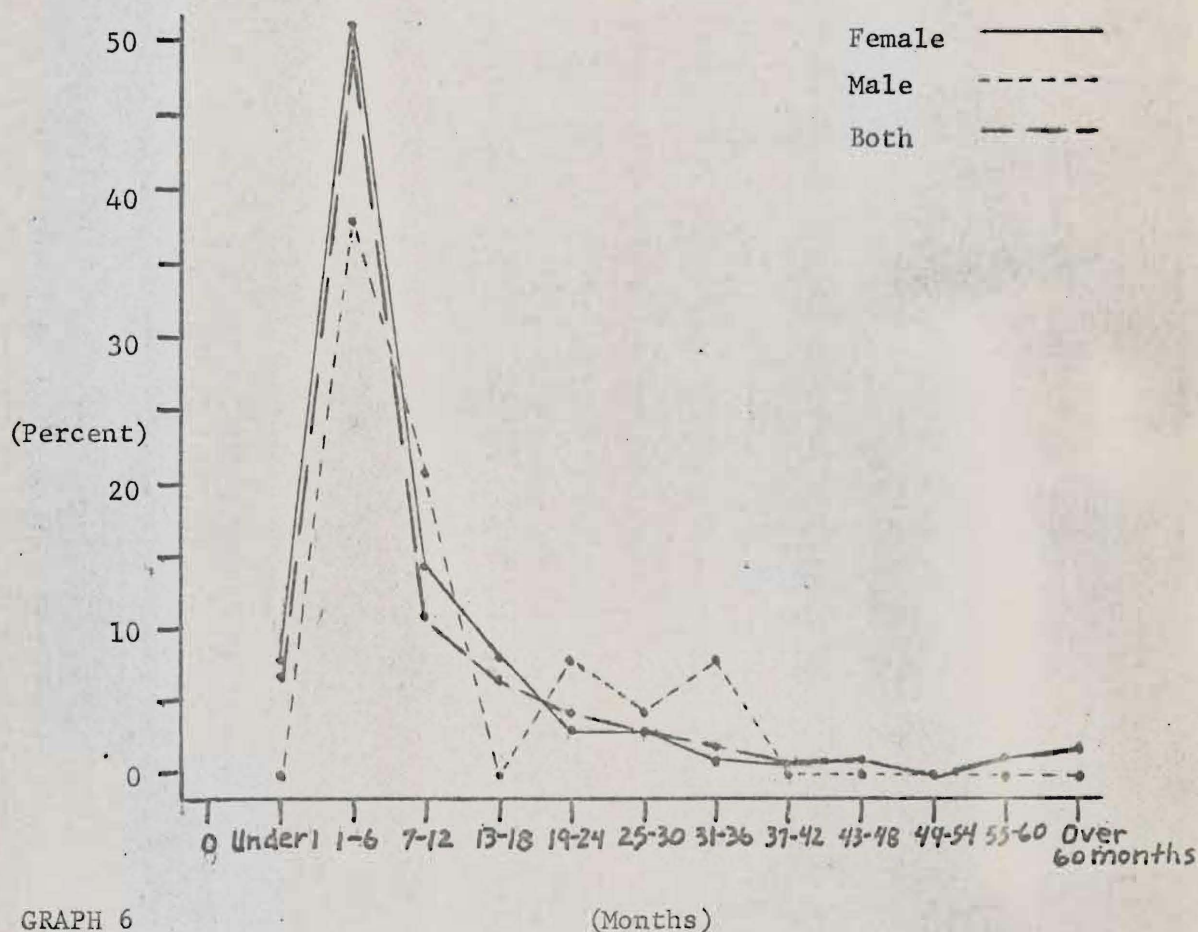
(Table XXI in Appendix) As shown in Graph 6, the highest percentage of the clients had been separated from 1 to 6 months (females, 51% and males, 38%); (65%) of the females and (58%) of the males had been separated from 1 to 12 months. Only (8%) of the females had been separated for less than 1 month, and 1 female had been separated for 7 years.

Separated - Who Left (Question 16)

(Table XXII in Appendix) The females responded equally for self (43%) and spouse (41%) leaving. Forty-six percent of the males indicated that the spouse left, and only (27%) indicated that they left.



### HOW LONG SEPARATED THIS TIME

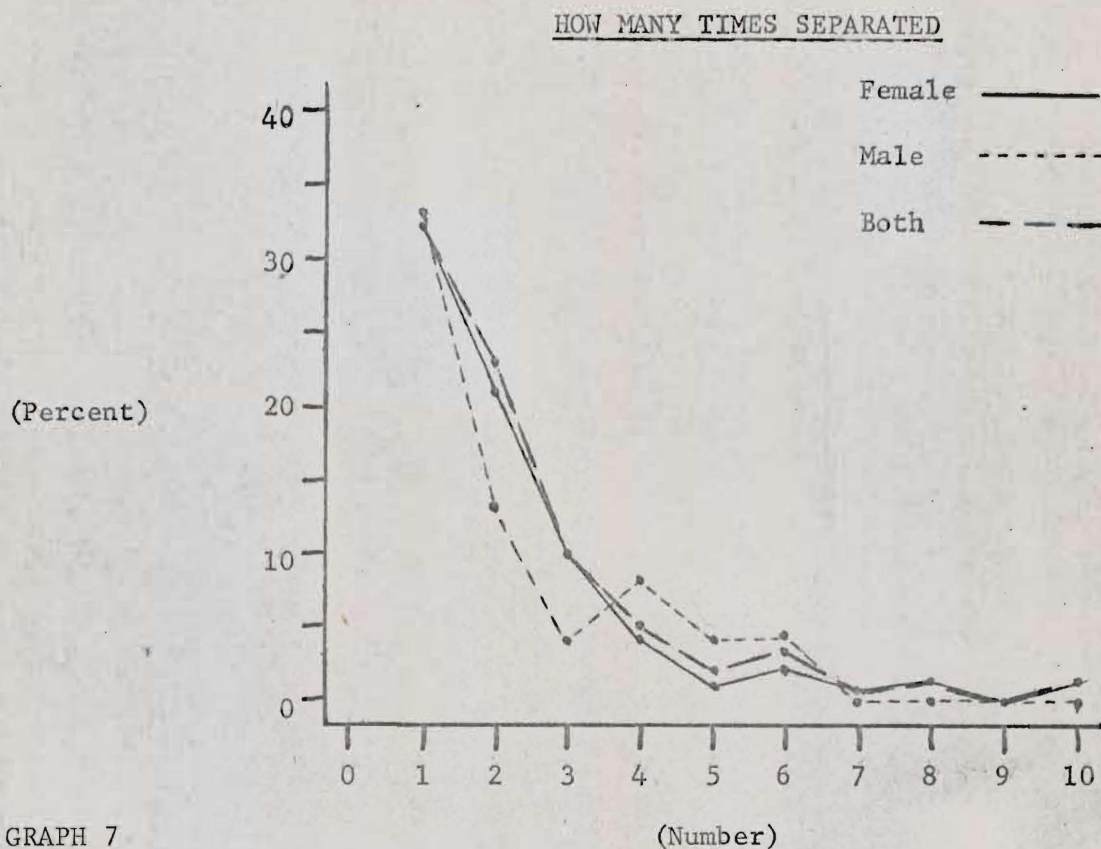


GRAPH 6

(Months)

#### Separated - Number of Times (Question 16)

(Table XXIII in Appendix) Graph 7 shows that (55%) of the females and (46%) of the males had been separated 1 to 2 times. Only (19.4%) of the females and (20%) of the males had been separated 3 or more times. One-fourth of the females and one-third of the males did not respond to this question.



GRAPH 7

HELP WITH FAMILY PROBLEMS (Question 17)

(Table XXIV in Appendix) The overwhelming response to this question was for divorce (females, 78% and males, 65%) over all other alternatives to help with family problems.

Reasons for Divorce (Question 18)

(Table XXV in Appendix) The main reasons for wanting a divorce, as was indicated by both males and females, were: spouse drinks, (50%); brutality, (40%); arguments, (39%); lack of affection, (34%); and, spouse has boy/girlfriend, (32%).

Lack of affection (females, 34% and males, 35%) and arguments (females, 39% and males, 38%) were equally responded to by both



sexes. The females showed some concern with both brutality (43%) and spouse drinking (54%); whereas the male responses (15%) and (12%) did not indicate concern in these areas regarding their spouse. The males were more concerned about the wife having a boyfriend (58%) than the females were about the husband having a girlfriend (29%).

#### Spouse Providing for Children (Question 19)

(Tables XXVI & XXVII in Appendix) A "No" response was given by both the males (50%) and the females (65%), indicating that the spouse was not providing for the children. Of those who answered "Yes", (females, 16% and males, 31%), one-half (50%) of both male and female responses indicated that the spouse was providing money.

#### Child Support (Question 20)

(Tables XXVIII, XXIX & XXX in Appendix) The data for the males was not considered for analysis and was not compiled on the tables for this question due to the fact that it was not applicable for them. This was not, however, indicated on the questionnaire as such. Fifty-seven percent of the females indicated that they wanted child support; (31%) indicated that they did not want child support. Sixty-one percent of those who indicated that they wanted child support also said they would demand it.

The final part of this question: "If No: Is it because he won't pay anyway?" did not have a high enough response rate to be considered for analysis.

Marriage Counseling (Question 21)

(Table XXXI in Appendix) Both males (56%) and females (68%) had never seen a marriage counselor; combining male and female responses, (66%) had never seen a marriage counselor.

Legal Aid - Referral (Question 22)

(Table XXXII in Appendix) Forty-seven percent of the women had heard about Legal Aid from Welfare; (50%) of the men had heard about Legal Aid from a friend. The least likely sources for women were the phone book and the spouse, and for men they were publicity and the phone book.

Legal Aid - Previous Contact (Question 23)

(Tables XXXIII and XXXIV in Appendix) Over two-thirds of the females (69%) and over one-half of the males (54%) had never been to Legal Aid before. Of those who had previously been to Legal Aid (females, 29% and males, 35%), the responses were split equally between coming for a divorce and for another legal problem.

Legal Aid - Reason (Question 24)

(Table XXXV in Appendix) There was an overwhelming response to this question indicating that most clients came to Legal Aid because of lack of money for a private attorney (females, 92% and males, 77%); combining both male and female responses, (91%) came to Legal Aid for the above reason.

Legal Aid - Transportation (Question 25)

(Table XXXVI in Appendix) Both females (78%) and males (58%)

either got to Legal Aid in their own car, with a friend, or on the bus. The spouse did not bring any of the clients.

Agencies Seen in the Past Year (Question 26)

(Table XXXVII in Appendix) The agencies most frequently contacted by the females were Welfare (60%) and Food Stamps (51%). Forty-two percent of the males did not respond to this question; however, of those who did respond, (31%) had contacted Food Stamps.



## V. CONCLUSIONS

It is possible to make certain assumptions, based on the data, regarding the four specific areas with which this study concerned itself. A resulting descriptive profile follows<sup>\*\*</sup>:

### 1) Who the Client is; where he lives:

The typical client is a female, under 26 years of age, white, unemployed, on Welfare, receives \$100-300 per month, and has finished high school or its equivalent. She is renting a house or apartment in southeast Portland.

This client has 1 or 2 children between the ages of 1 and 5, and these children are living with her. She denies that the children have suffered from the marriage, although she will admit some bad behavior.

She has been married only once, for a period of 1 to 5 years. She is presently separated, has been separated once or twice before, and has been separated this time for 1 to 6 months.

### 2) Why or if the client wants a divorce:

The client wants a divorce for the reasons of brutality, spouse drinking, arguments, and lack of affection. The husband is not providing for the children now, and she wants child support and will demand it. She has never been to a marriage counselor.

### 3) Why the client came to Legal Aid and his contacts with other agencies:

The client learned about Legal Aid from Welfare, and had no previous contacts there. She came to Legal Aid because of a lack of money for a private attorney. Transportation to Legal Aid was by car, bus, or a friend.

The agencies she has had most frequent contact with are Welfare and Food Stamps.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>See Table XXXVIII in Appendix for profile list, percentages, and confidence levels.

4) Whether the client has considered counseling to help with his problems:

She was unwilling to see a counselor at the time of her first visit to Legal Aid. She did not request either counseling or advice, other than legal.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

### Family Counselor

The Family Law Center is different from the previous domestic relations services offered by Legal Aid in that a social worker is available to render counseling services to the client at the time of the intake interview. According to J. V. McGoodwin, director, the clients are not requesting or utilizing this service.

Several reasons may account for the unwillingness by the clients to request or accept the services of a counselor. Some of these reasons include: 1) the emotional state of the client at the time of intake may render it impossible for him to see any alternative to his present situation except for the legal one; 2) the majority of the clients, as shown in this study, saw divorce as the only solution to their family problems at intake; and 3) poor people, in general, do not utilize professional counseling, or counseling in the traditional sense.

In spite of this, there is still a need for counseling for the many problems associated with the breakup of a family and its effect on the children, adjustment to divorce, and future planning for the client, his children, and his family.

In a study of the Family Law Center, examining its first seven months in operation, it was shown that only 60% of the clients showed up for the initial intake interview. On the basis



of both 1) this low show-up rate, and 2) the client's unwillingness to utilize the counseling service at the time of intake, it would seem appropriate to make some changes concerning the use of the counselor at intake only.

We recommend, therefore, that counseling services be offered at one or both of the two delay points in the legal process at the Family Law Center. These two points are 1) before the initial interview, and 2) while waiting for "normal" paperwork to be done, after the initial interview. This could be accomplished at point 1) by mentioning counseling at the time of the initial phone contact with the client, sending informational brochures with the appointment letter, and personal contact by the counselor via the telephone or home visits. At point 2), again contact could be initiated by the counselor either by letter, telephone, or a home visit could be attempted.

Regardless of which method of contact, or at which point counseling is offered, it would certainly seem appropriate to attempt some other method than that which is presently being done for the reason that it has not proven effective.

#### Location

Our study shows that the majority of the clients live in southeast Portland. At one point in this project, we had some concern about the location of the Family Law Center downtown and its accessibility to the clients. After further consideration of the transportation problem (many of the clients come to the Family Law Center by bus), we now concur with the decision to locate downtown.

Although this location may be inconvenient for some, it is most convenient for the majority.

### Data Retrieval

We feel that it is important to the Family Law Center, as it is to any service-offering agency, to have a systematic method for data retrieval. A well organized method for recovering data can save staff time, is necessary to document services and statistics for funding purposes, and is invaluable for use in ongoing planning and evaluation of the program.

The data furnished in the conclusions section of this study and Table XXXVIII in the Appendix, might appropriately be included in some type of data collection system. We, as social workers, feel that these results are important in a Family Law Center setting to be used at the discretion of Legal Aid, with the agency making the decision as to what data it feels as important and pertinent. Selection of and use of this data would be for future resource material; to better aid the clients, the Family Law Center, and the legal process; as well as the social worker functioning in a legal setting.

Some of the ways more efficient data retrieval might be accomplished are 1) additional data obtained on the buff card; 2) use of IBM cards; and 3) some type of card-sensing system. The mechanics of setting up a data-retrieval system, regardless of method used, is beyond the scope of this study and our expertise. However, more information about various kinds of data collection systems can be obtained from many sources, if Legal Aid so desires.



## APPENDIX

TABLE I  
QUESTIONNAIRES

	Number	%
Completed	243	83
Returned Blank	28	9
Not Returned	22	8
Total	293	

TABLE II  
SEX

	Number	%
Female	217	89
Male	26	11
Total	243	

TABLE III  
AGE

	N	%	N	%	N	%
Years	Female		Male		Both	
16-20	48	22	0	0	48	20
21-25	82	38	10	38	92	38
26-30	30	14	7	27	37	15
31-35	21	10	1	4	22	9
36-40	15	7	1	4	16	7
41-45	9	4	3	12	12	5
46-50	5	2	1	4	6	2
51-55	2	1	0	0	2	1
56-60	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
61-65	0	0	0	0	0	0
66-70	2	1	2	8	4	2
No Response	2	1	1	4	3	1
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE IV  
RACE

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Black	18	8	2	8	20	8
White	193	89	22	85	215	88
Mexican	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian	4	2	1	4	5	2
Oriental	1	.4	1	4	2	1
No Response	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE V  
EMPLOYED

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	45	21	6	23	51	21
No	165	76	20	78	185	76
No Response	7	3	0	0	7	3
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE VI  
ON WELFARE

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	127	59	1	4	128	53
No	85	39	22	85	107	44
No Response	5	2	3	12	8	3
Total	217		26		243	



TABLE VII  
INCOME

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
None	14	6	4	15	18	7
Under \$100	13	6	1	4	14	6
\$100-199	76	35	6	23	82	34
\$200-299	53	24	7	27	60	25
\$300-399	11	5	2	8	12	5
\$400-499	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
\$500-599	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$600-699	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$700-799	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$800-899	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$900-999	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
No Response	48	22	6	23	54	22
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE VIII  
EDUCATION  
(part 1)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Grade School	44	20	4	15	48	20
High School	129	59	10	38	139	57
College	20	9	5	19	25	10
GED	12	6	7	27	19	8
No Response	12	6	0	0	12	5
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE IX  
EDUCATION  
(part 2)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
CEP training	5	2	0	0	5	2
Voc. training	9	4	0	0	9	4
Bus. School	13	6	1	4	14	6
Trade School	4	2	0	0	4	2
*Other	0	0	1	4	1	.4
No Response	186	86	24	92	210	86
Total	217		26		243	

\*Other---Military

TABLE X  
WHERE LIVING

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Renting Apt.	89	41	10	38	99	41
Renting House	75	35	7	27	82	34
Owens Home	11	5	2	8	13	5
No Response	42	19	7	27	49	20
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XI  
WHO LIVING WITH NOW

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Alone	28	13	8	31	36	15
With Children	121	56	5	19	126	52
With Parents	29	13	4	15	33	14
With Relatives	11	5	2	8	13	5
With Friends	22	10	5	19	27	11
No Response	6	3	2	8	8	3
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XII  
WHAT PART OF TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
North	31	14	3	12	34	14
Northeast	47	22	7	27	54	22
Northwest	15	7	1	4	16	7
Southeast	94	43	10	38	104	43
Southwest	18	8	3	12	21	9
*Other	0	0	1	4	1	.4
No Response	12	6	1	4	13	5
Total	217		26		243	

\*Other---Out of Town



TABLE XIII  
AGES OF CHILDREN  
(part 1)

Years	N	%	N	%	N	%
	(Clients)		(Clients)		(Clients)	
	Female		Male		Both	
Under 1	47	11	1	3	48	11
1-5	165	40	16	55	18	41
6-10	96	23	5	17	101	23
11-15	72	17	1	3	73	16
16-20	24	6	3	10	27	6
21-25	8	2	2	7	10	2
26-30	1	.2	1	3	2	.4
31-35	1	.2	0	0	1	.2
Total (children)	414		29		443	

TABLE XIV  
NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY  
(part 2)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	(Clients)		(Clients)		(Clients)	
	Female		Male		Both	
None	14	6	7	27	21	9
1 child	65	30	7	27	72	30
2 children	49	23	4	15	53	22
3 "	41	19	2	8	43	18
4 "	14	6	2	8	16	7
5 "	7	3	0	0	7	3
6 "	3	1	0	0	3	1
7 "	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 "	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 "	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
*Other	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
No Response	22	10	4	15	26	11
Total	217		26		243	

\*Other---Pregnant

TABLE XV  
WHERE ARE CHILDREN LIVING NOW

	(n=217)		(n=26)		(n=243)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
With You	167	77	6	29	173	70
With Spouse	10	5	8	38	18	7
Grandparents	6	3	1	5	7	3
Other Relatives	3	1	1	5	4	2
Friends	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foster Home	8	4	0	0	8	3
Adopted	1	.4	1	5	2	1
*Other	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
No Response	36	17	10	38	46	15
Total (Responses)	232		27		259	

\*Other---Married

TABLE XVI  
HAVE CHILDREN SUFFERED FROM THIS MARRIAGE  
(part 1)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	75	35	6	23	81	33
No	111	51	15	58	126	52
No Response	31	14	5	19	36	15
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XVII  
IF YES: HOW  
(part 2)

	(n=75)		(n= 6)		(n=81)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Beaten	12	16	2	33	14	17
Poor Grades	16	21	1	17	17	21
Left Alone	7	9	3	50	10	12
Use Drugs	0	0	1	17	1	1
Bad Behavior	27	36	3	50	30	37
Running Away	7	9	1	17	8	10
Skipping School	7	9	1	17	8	10
Not in School	5	7	1	17	6	7
In trouble	3	4	1	17	4	5
*Other	13	17	0	0	13	16
No Response	15	20	1	17	16	20
Total (Responses)	112		15		127	

\*Other---Scared, 1; Nerves, 1; Mistreated, 3; Emotionally or mentally upsetting (speech problem, seeing fighting, etc.), 5; Unsettled (Lack of harmony), 2; Unhappy, 1.

TABLE XVIII  
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED

	N	%	N	%	N	%
Years	Female		Male		Both	
Under 1	14	6	4	15	18	7
1-5	130	60	16	62	146	60
6-10	41	19	3	12	44	18
11-15	12	6	1	4	13	5
16-20	9	4	0	0	9	4
21-25	5	2	0	0	5	2
26-30	1	.4	1	4	2	1
31-35	0	0	0	0	0	0
36-40	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
No Response	4	2	1	4	5	2
Total	217		26		243	



TABLE XIX  
NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
1	153	71	16	62	169	70
2	40	18	6	23	46	19
3	15	7	1	4	16	7
4	2	1	0	0	2	1
5	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
No Response	6	3	3	12	9	4
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XX  
ARE YOU SEPARATED NOW  
(part 1)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	204	94	24	92	228	94
No	11	5	1	4	12	5
No Response	2	1	1	4	3	1
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XXI  
HOW LONG THIS TIME  
(part 2)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
Months	Female		Male		Both	
Under 1	17	8	0	0	17	7
1-6	104	51	9	38	115	50
7-12	29	14	5	21	34	11
13-18	16	8	0	0	16	7
19-24	6	3	2	8	8	4
25-30	6	3	1	4	7	3
31-36	3	1	2	8	5	2
37-42	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
43-48	2	1	0	0	2	1
49-54	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-60	3	1	0	0	3	1
Over 60 (5 yrs.)	5	2	0	0	5	2
No Response	12	6	5	21	17	7
Total	204		24		228	

TABLE XXII  
WHO LEFT THIS TIME  
(part 3)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Self	93	46	7	29	100	44
Spouse	89	44	12	50	101	44
*Other	7	3	1	4	8	4
No Response	15	7	4	17	19	8
Total	204		24		228	

\*Other---Both Parties Left

TABLE XXIII  
HOW MANY TIMES SEPARATED  
(part 4)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
1	65	32	8	33	73	32
2	46	23	3	13	49	21
3	21	10	1	4	22	10
4	9	4	2	8	11	5
5	3	1	1	4	4	2
6	5	2	1	4	6	3
7	1	.4	0	0	1	.4
8	2	1	0	0	2	1
9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	2	1	0	0	2	1
No Response	50	25	8	33	58	25
Total	204		24		228	

TABLE XXIV  
WHAT HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT TO HELP  
WITH YOUR FAMILY PROBLEMS

	(n=217)		(n=26)		(n=243)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Debt Counseling	9	4	0	0	9	4
Child Custody	24	11	0	0	24	10
Child Support	40	18	1	4	41	17
Change of Name	14	6	1	4	15	6
Family Counseling	33	15	1	4	34	14
Divorce	170	78	17	65	187	77
Separation	35	16	1	4	36	15
Advice	20	9	1	4	21	9
Referral	2	1	0	0	2	1
Annulment	7	3	6	23	13	5
*Other	6	3	1	4	7	3
No Response	18	3	6	23	24	10
Total (Responses)	378		35		413	

\*Other---minister, 1; psychiatrist or counselor, 2 (1 male); P.S.U. Counseling Service, 2; Return to School, 1; "Work them out ourselves", 1.



TABLE XXV  
IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A DIVORCE: WHY

	(n=217)		(n=26)		(n=243)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Caseworker Adv	17	8	0	0	17	7
Lack of Affection	74	34	9	35	83	34
Want to Remarry	17	8	7	27	24	10
Spouse Won't Work	59	22	1	4	60	25
Spouse Disabled	4	2	1	4	5	2
Spouse Unemployed	39	13	1	4	40	16
Spouse Uses Drugs	67	31	1	4	68	28
Brutality	94	43	4	15	98	40
Spouse Drinks	118	54	3	12	121	50
Arguments	84	39	10	38	94	39
Spouse Gone	5	2	8	31	13	5
Spouse has Boy/ Girl Friend	63	29	15	58	78	32
*Other	11	5	2	8	13	5
No Response	18	8	6	23	24	10
Total (Responses)	668		68		736	

\*Other---Gamble, 2 (1 male); Incompatibility, 4; Doctor Advised, 1; Spouse Married, 3 (1 male); Spouse in Jail, 1; "Won't Keep a Job", 1; "Spouse doesn't want me", 1.

TABLE XXVI  
IS SPOUSE PROVIDING FOR CHILDREN NOW  
(part 1)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	34	16	8	31	42	17
No	141	65	5	19	146	60
No Response	42	19	13	50	55	23
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XXVII  
IF YES: HOW  
(part 2)

	(n=34)		(n=8)		(n=42)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Clothing	8	24	4	50	12	29
Food	10	29	5	63	15	36
Money	17	50	4	50	21	50
Transportation	2	6	3	38	5	12
Entertainment	3	9	1	13	4	10
Housing	10	29	4	50	14	33
No Response	7	21	1	13	8	19
Total (Responses)	57		22		79	

TABLE XXVIII  
DO YOU WANT CHILD SUPPORT  
(part 1)

	N	%
	Female	
Yes	123	57
No	68	31
No Response	26	12
Total	217	

TABLE XXIX  
IF YES: WILL YOU DEMAND SUPPORT  
(part 2)

	N	%
	Female	
Yes	75	61
No	26	31
No Response	12	18
Total	123	



TABLE XXX  
IF NO: IS IT BECAUSE HE WON'T PAY ANYWAY  
(part 3)

	N	%
	Female	
Yes	23	34
No	20	29
No Response	25	37
Total	68	

TABLE XXXI  
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	56	26	4	15	60	25
No	147	68	14	54	161	66
No Response	14	6	8	31	22	9
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XXXII  
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT LEGAL AID

	(n=217)		(n=26)		(n=243)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Welfare	103	47	2	8	105	43
Friend	62	29	13	50	75	31
Phone Book	6	3	0	0	6	2
Spouse	3	1	2	8	5	2
Publicity	34	16	1	4	35	14
Relatives	30	14	2	8	32	13
Private Attorney	15	7	2	8	17	7
*Other	19	9	2	8	21	9
No Response	8	4	5	19	13	5
Total (Responses)	230		29		319	



\*Other---Mental Health Psychologist, 5 (1 male); Mr. Norm Monroe, 10 (1 male); Legal Aid Attorney, 1; Social Worker, 1; Domestic Relations Counselor, 1; "Been here before", 1; Police, 1; Counselor, 1.

TABLE XXXIII  
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO LEGAL AID BEFORE  
(part 1)

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	64	29	9	35	73	30
No	149	69	14	54	163	67
No Response	4	2	3	12	7	3
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XXXIV  
IF YES: WHY  
(part 2)

	(n=64)		(n=9)		(n=73)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Divorce	30	47	4	44	34	47
Other Legal Problem	33	52	5	56	38	52
No Response	27	42	1	11	28	38
Total (Responses)	67		12		77	

TABLE XXXV  
DID YOU COME TO LEGAL AID BECAUSE OF LACK OF  
MONEY FOR A PRIVATE ATTORNEY

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Yes	200	92	20	77	220	91
No	7	3	0	0	7	3
No Response	10	5	6	23	16	7
Total	217		26		243	

TABLE XXXVI  
HOW DID YOU GET TO LEGAL AID TODAY

	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Own Car	54	25	5	19	59	24
Taxicab	4	2	1	4	5	2
Friend	63	29	7	27	70	29
Bus	53	24	3	12	56	23
Spouse Brought	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walked	3	1	2	8	5	2
Relative	23	11	2	8	25	10
*Other	10	5	0	0	10	4
No Response	4	3	4	23	13	5
Total	217		26		243	

\*Other---Borrowed Car, 4; Bike, 3; Agency Car, 2; Pick-up, 1.

TABLE XXXVII  
WHICH AGENCIES HAVE YOU SEEN IN THE PAST YEAR

	(n=217)		(n=26)		(n=243)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Female		Male		Both	
Welfare	131	60	4	15	135	56
Juvenile						
Detention	9	4	2	8	11	5
Juvenile Court	12	6	1	4	13	5
Other Court	4	2	0	0	4	2
Probation	2	1	1	4	3	1
Parole	3	1	0	0	3	1
Food Stamps	111	51	8	31	119	49
Mental Health	20	9	2	8	22	9
Housing Authority	35	16	1	4	36	15
*Other	4	2	0	0	4	2
No Response	38	13	11	42	49	20
Total (Responses)	369		30		399	



TABLE XXXVIII  
CONCLUSIONS

1) Who the client is; where he lives:			
Female	217/243*1	.89*2	.04*3
Under 26 years	130/215	.60	.06
White	193/216	.89	.04
Unemployed	165/210	.76	.06
On Welfare	127/212	.59	.06
Income \$100-300/month	129/169	.59	.07
High School or GED	141/205	.65	.06
Renting Apt. or House	164/175	.76	.06
Southeast Portland	94/205	.43	.07
Children--1-5 years	165/414	.40	***4
One or Two Children	114/195	.53	.07
Children with Her	167/181	.77	.06
Said Children not			
Suffering	111/186	.51	.07
Children--Bad			
Behavior	27/ 60	.36	.12
Married Once	153/211	.71	.06
Married 1-5 years	130/213	.60	.06
Separated Now	195/215	.90	.04
Separated--1-6 months	104/192	.51	.07
Separated--1 or 2 times	110/154	.55	.08
2) Why or if the client wants a divorce:			
Wants Divorce Only	170/199	.78	.06
Reasons for Divorce:			
Brutality	94/199	.43	.07
Spouse Drinks	118/199	.54	.07
Arguments	84/199	.39	.07
Lack of Affection	74/199	.34	.06
Spouse Not Providing for			
Children	141/175	.65	.07
Wants Child Support	123/191	.57	.07
Will Demand Child Support	75/111	.61	.09
Never Seen Marriage			
Counselor	147/203	.68	.06
3) Why the client came to Legal Aid and his contacts with other agencies:			
Knew About Legal Aid from			
Welfare	103/199	.47	.07
Never Been to Legal Aid	149/213	.69	.06
No Money For Private			
Attorney	200/207	.92	.03
Got to Legal Aid by Car,			
Bus, or Friend	170/213	.78	.06
Contact with Welfare	131/179	.60	.07
Contact with Food Stamps	111/179	.51	.07

4) Whether the client has considered counseling to help with his problems:

Wanted Counseling	33/199	.15
Wanted Advice	20/199	.09

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\*1---Number of specific responses/Number of total responses.

\*2---Percentages.

\*3---Confidence Levels.

\*4---Not possible to calculate a confidence level.

EXHIBIT



This is a CONFIDENTIAL questionnaire which is being used by two Portland State students.

Please feel free not to answer if you don't want to fill this out, or to leave any answers blank; however, the information will be important to help Legal Aid to better assist its clients. Some of these questions may be asked again by a Legal Aid staff member.

Please return this form to receptionist when finished. Thank You.

500

1) Sex: Male _____ Female _____	16) Are You Separated Now: (Check One) Yes _____ No _____ If Yes: (Fill In) How Long This Time: _____ Months Who Left This Time: Self _____ Spouse _____ How Many Times Separated: _____ times
2) Age: _____ SELF SPOUSE	17) What Have You Thought About to Help With Your Family Problems: (Check One or More) Debt Counseling _____ Abortion _____ Child Custody _____ Divorce _____ Child Support _____ Separation _____ Change of Name _____ Advice _____ Family Counseling _____ Referral _____ Other _____ Annulment _____
3) Race: (Check One) Black _____ White _____ Mexican _____ Indian _____ Oriental _____	18) If You Are Considering a Divorce: Why: (Check One or More) Caseworker Advised _____ Brutality _____ Lack of Affection _____ Spouse Drinks _____ Want to Remarry _____ Arguments _____ Spouse Won't Work _____ Spouse Gone _____ Spouse Disabled _____ Spouse Has Boy/Girl Friend _____ Spouse Unemployed _____ Spouse Uses Drugs _____
4) Employed: (Check One) Yes _____ No _____	19) Is Spouse Providing For Children Now: Yes _____ No _____ If Yes: How: (Check One or More) Clothing _____ Transportation _____ Food _____ Entertainment _____ Money _____ Housing _____
5) On Welfare: (Check One) Yes _____ No _____	20) Do You Want Child Support: (Check One) Yes _____ No _____ If Yes: Will You Demand Support: Yes _____ No _____ If No: Is It Because He Won't Pay Anyway: Yes _____ No _____
6) Income: (Take Home Amount) Per Month \$ _____ \$ _____	21) Have You Ever Seen a Marriage Counselor: Yes _____ No _____
7) Education: (Check One or More) Grade School _____ High School _____ College _____ CED _____ CEP training _____ Voc. training _____ Bus. School _____ Trade School _____	22) How Did You Know About Legal Aid: Welfare _____ Publicity _____ Friend _____ Relatives _____ Phone Book _____ Private Attorney _____ Spouse _____
8) Where Living: (Check One) Renting Apt. _____ Renting House _____ Owns Home _____	23) Have You Ever Been to Legal Aid Before: Yes _____ No _____ If Yes: Why: (Check One) Divorce _____ Other Legal Problem _____
9) Who Living With Now: (Check One) Alone _____ With Children _____ With Parents _____ With Relatives _____ With Friends _____	24) Did You Come to Legal Aid Because of Lack of Money For a Private Attorney: Yes _____ No _____
10) What Part of Town Do You Live In: North _____ Southeast _____ Northeast _____ Southwest _____ Northwest _____	25) How Did You Get to Legal Aid Today: Own Car _____ Spouse Brought _____ Taxicab _____ Walked _____ Friend _____ Relative _____ Bus _____
11) Ages of Children: (Fill In Ages) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	26) Which Agencies Have You Seen in the Past Year: (Check One or More) Welfare _____ Probation _____ Juvenile _____ Parole _____ detention _____ Food Stamps _____ Juvenile Court _____ Mental Health _____ Other Court _____ Housing Authority _____
12) Where Are Children Living Now: (Check) With You _____ Friends _____ With Spouse _____ Foster Home _____ Grandparents _____ Adopted _____ Other Relatives _____	
13) Have Children Suffered From This Marriage: Yes _____ No _____ If Yes: How: (Check One or More) Beaten _____ Running Away _____ Poor Grades _____ Skipping School _____ Left Alone _____ Not in School _____ Use Drugs _____ In Trouble _____ Bad Behavior _____	
14) How Long Have You Been Married: (Fill In) Number of Years _____.	
15) Number of Times Married: (Fill In Number) Self: _____ Times Spouse: _____ Times	